JUANDERLANDIA

BY SHERWIN SABLAON

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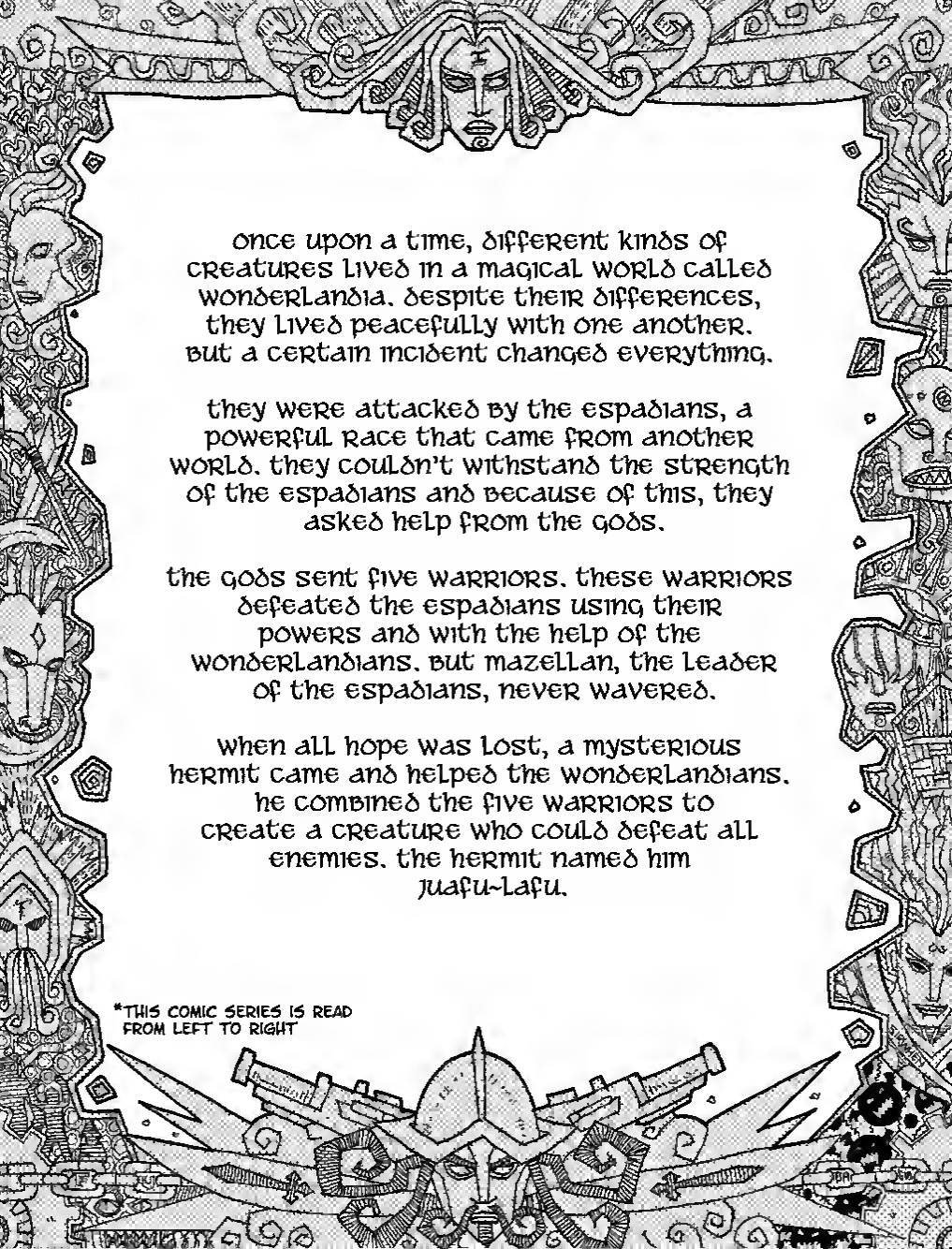

once upon a time, different kinds of creatures lived in a magical world called wonderlandia. despite their differences, they lived peacefully with one another. but a certain incident changed everything.
they were attacked by the espadians, a powerful race that came from another world. they couldn't withstand the strength of the espadians and because of this, they asked help from the gods.
the gods sent five warriors. these warriors defeated the espadians using their powers and with the help of the wonderlandians. but mazellan, the leader of the espadians, never wavered.
when all hope was lost, a mysterious hermit came and helped the wonderlandians. he combined the five warriors to create a creature who could defeat all enemies. the hermit named him juafu-lafu.
*this comic series is read from left to right

It didn't take too long before a fierce battle took place between Juafu-Lafu and Mazellan. At the end of the battle, Mazellan died. The Wonderlandians became victorious and peace was restored in their world.

The hermit told them that the battle wasn't over, but they ignored his warning.

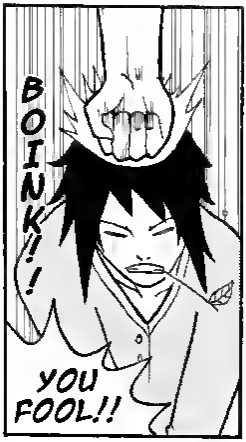
Many years have passed... but the Wonderlandians don't know that there is still danger in their world.

On the other hand, there's a new hero who's ready to help and rescue Wonderlandia. His name is Juan.

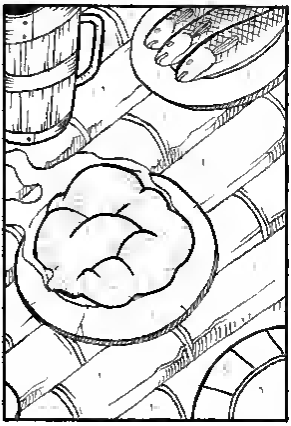
Let's go and read his story...

one day, on the island of verdera where juan lives.
his home is located in a peaceful place where there aren't any neighbors.
he lives with pedro and his granddaughter, nene. they adopted juan when he was an orphan.
he always fetches water that they will use for the whole day.
aside from doing that, he also goes there to...

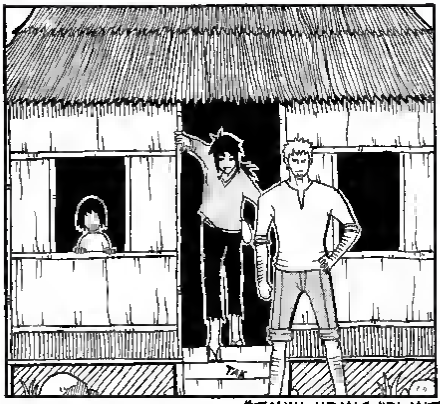
...sleep, that's juan. juan the slacker
ZZZ
-PLOK!
YAWNS-
TSIK
-STRETCH!
GOOD AFTERNOON, BIRDIES!
SLEEPING FEELS GREAT!
I GOTTA GO BACK OR ELSE DAD WILL GET MAD.
TWIT TWIT
THAT'S WEIRD... I DON'T REMEMBER FILLING THIS PAIL WITH WATER... EH, WHATEVER.



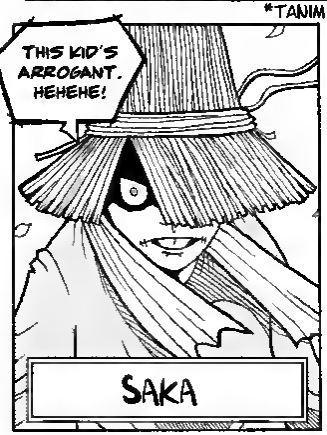
*BATHALA IS THE GOD OF THE ANCIENT FILIPINOS ACCORDING TO PHILIPPINE MYTH

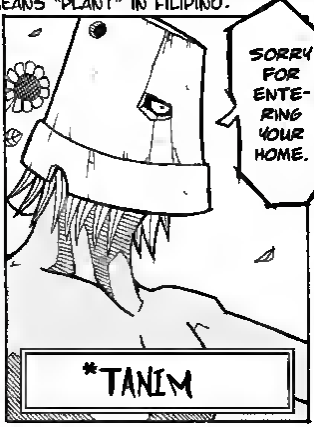


nene was born blind, but because of that, her senses and hearing have become sharp.
HUH?
WHAT IS IT, NENE? DO YOU FEEL SICK?
THERE ARE THREE MEN OUTSIDE, GRANDPA.



*TANIM MEANS "PLANT" IN FILIPINO.





*A DATU IS THE CHIEF OF FILIPINO MUSLIMS GOOGLE MORE ABOUT THAT
THIS ISLAND IS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF OUR NEW DATU, NGA-NGA. HE WANTS ALL MEN HERE TO WORK FOR HIM TO BUILD HIS NEW KINGDOM. ANYONE WHO OBJECTS HIM WILL BE SENTENCED TO DEATH.
A NEW DATU?! WHAT HAPPENED TO DATU VERDE? WHY IS HE REPLACED? TELL ME!
DATU VERDE? HE'S ALREADY DEAD! HE GOT UNLUCKY IN A BATTLE WITH DATU NGA-NGA! HEHEHE!

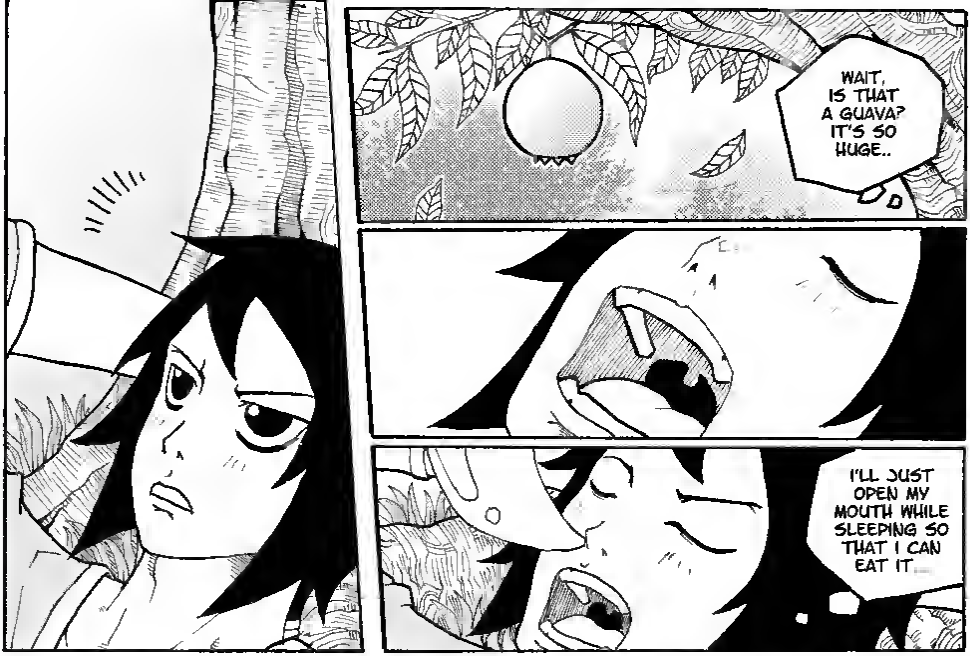
VERDE IS DEAD!? MY OWN BROTHER?!
THAT'S WHY WE'LL FETCH YOU TOMORROW, KID. DON'T WORRY, OLD-TIMER. THE DATH ONLY NEEDS YOUNG MEN.
SWISS
THIS CAN'T BE...
PLIK

DATU VERDE .. WHY DID YOU LEAVE US? I ALWAYS REMEMBER THE DAY WHEN YOU ADOPTED ME WHEN MY PARENTS ABANDONED ME.
HOO
HOO
HOO
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU AND DAD'S KINDNESS, I MIGHT HAVE DIED FROM HUNGER LONG AGO.
I WON'T FORGET YOU.
TAKE CARE, JUAN...

COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!
OH, JUAN! YOU'RE DONE EATING? IF THAT'S THE CASE...
GO GET WATER FROM A WELL NOW!!
O-OKAY...
I'LL BE GOING NOW, DAD. HOW ABOUT YOU, NENE? WANT A FRUIT AS A SOUVENIR?
COME BACK EARLY AND MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T SLEEP AGAIN!
NEVERMIND. YOU'LL JUST BECOME LAZY TO BRING IT BACK HERE
GRANDPA, I DREAMT SOMETHING LAST NIGHT.
I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT WELL, BUT I'M SURE THAT I SAW A PERSON.
...DIGGING.
DON'T THINK ABOUT IT. I HOPE THAT'S NOT A BAD SIGN.

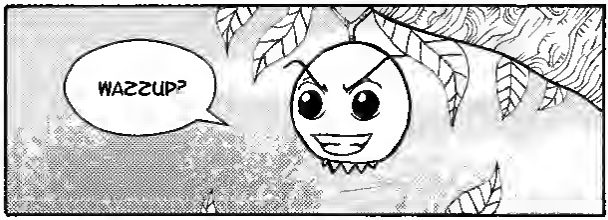
somewhere far away...
IT'S TIME TO MOVE! WE'RE READY, ARARO.
LET'S DO WHAT WE'RE INSTRUCTED! HEHE!
WHOOSH
LET'S GO! HE'LL COME WITH US WHETHER HE'LL LIKE IT OR NOT!

HOW COME DAD ACTS AS IF YESTERDAY DIDN'T HAPPEN? AH! MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT ME AND NENE TO SEE HIM SAD.
..I KNOW HE'S MORE HURT THAN US ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BUT HE DOESN'T WANT US TO BE WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
SIGH! CARRYING THIS THING IS TOO TIRING! I'LL JUST TAKE A REST FOR A WHILE...
SHF - SHF
PERFECT! THIS IS A GOOD SPOT!
-YAWN


WAIT, IS THAT A GUAVA? IT'S SO HUGE..
:D
I'LL JUST OPEN MY MOUTH WHILE SLEEPING SO THAT I CAN EAT IT...

after many hours have passed...
PSST-

HMMM...?


WAZZUP?

WAAHH!!
A TALKING GUAVA!?
SURPRISED? YOU THOUGHT I WAS WAS A CELEBRITY, EH? WELL, YOU'RE WRONG! I'M A PRINCE AND THE SON OF BATHALA!
AM I DREAMING!? OR AM I JUST DIZZY FROM HUNGER? WHAT THE HECK IS THIS GUAVA SAYING? AH! I KNOW...
DAD SENT ME HERE TO FIND THE CHOSEN ONE WHO CAN RESCUE THE WORLD! AND--
--SAVHRRUGHH!!?
YUCK! DON'T EAT ME!
KRAAKRK!!

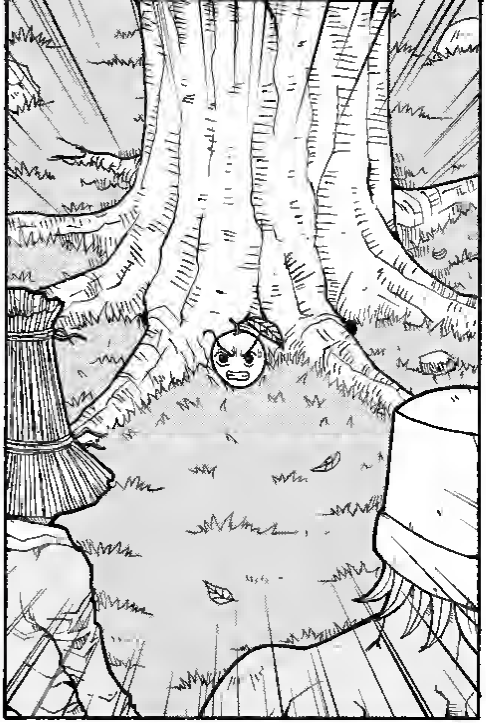
PWE!!
OWW! THIS ISN'T A DREAM. WHY IS THIS GUAVA HARD!?
SERVES YOU RIGHT! GOOD THING I HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE AS HARD AS METAL!
AND THIS ISN'T A DREAM! I'M REALLY LOOKING FOR THE CHOSEN ONE! THE PERSON WHO WILL PLUCK ME FROM A TREE-
I JUST NOTICED SOMETHING. HE DIDN'T HAVE DIFFICULTY PLUCKING ME FROM A TREE... WHAT IF...
ALRIGHT! THERE'S WATER IN THE PAIL! I KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE FILLED UP WHILE I WAS SLEEPING! WELL ROTTEN GUAVA, I HAVE TO GO BACK HOME
WAIT, DIDN'T HE FETCH THE WATER FROM A WELL? THAT'S STRANGE... HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT?
HEY, KID!

FOUND YOU!
YOU MADE US GO THROUGH A TOUGH TIME SEARCHING FOR YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!? NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, I WON'T GO WITH YOU!
ARE YOU SURE? BECAUSE AROUND THIS TIME, YOUR DAD AND HIS GRANDKID MIGHT BE DEAD!
TAKE BACK WHAT YOU JUST SAID...

SWOOSH!
TAKE BACK WHAT YOU JUST SAID!
WAIT, IDIOT! DON'T JUST-
BAG!
DON'T FIGHT BACK!
SERVES YOU RIGHT!

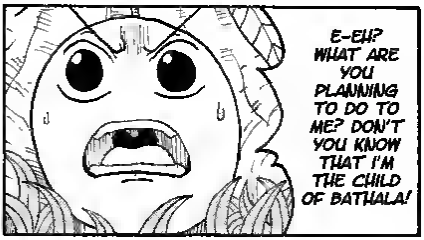
DON'T HURT NENE AND MY DAD. JUST KILL ME INSTEAD.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT. I'LL KILL YOU QUICKLY.
WHAT IS HE DOING?! DOES HE WANT TO DIE JUST LIKE THAT!
YOU'RE DEAD, KID!!!
SWIP
GOODBYE, DAD...NENE...

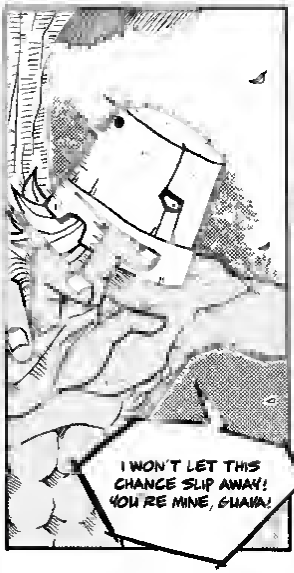
SPLAT!
THUD
SAKA, I THINK YOU HIT HIM TOO HARD.
DON'T WORRY, TANM. I JUST MADE HIM SLEEP.
HEY, UGLIES! YOU'RE VERY BAD! MY DAD IS GOING TO PUNISH YOU!
HMMM? I'VE BEEN HEARING THAT ANNOYING VOICE.
!

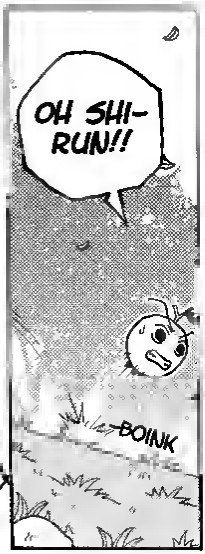


DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE, TANIM? A TALKING GUAVA.

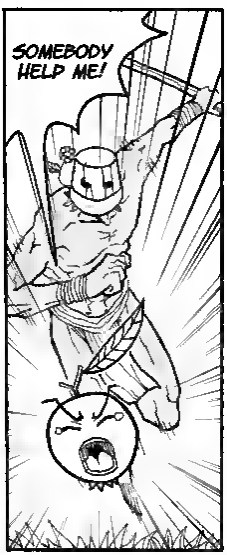
HUH? THAT'S A GUAVA? I THOUGHT IT WAS A FROG. THAT'S GOOD TO EAT!


E-EH? WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO TO ME? DON'T YOU KNOW THAT I'M THE CHILD OF BATHALA!


I WON'T LET THIS CHANCE SLIP AWAY! YOU'RE MINE, GUAVA!


OH SHI-RUN!!
BOINK

UHMM..MM


SOMEBODY HELP ME!

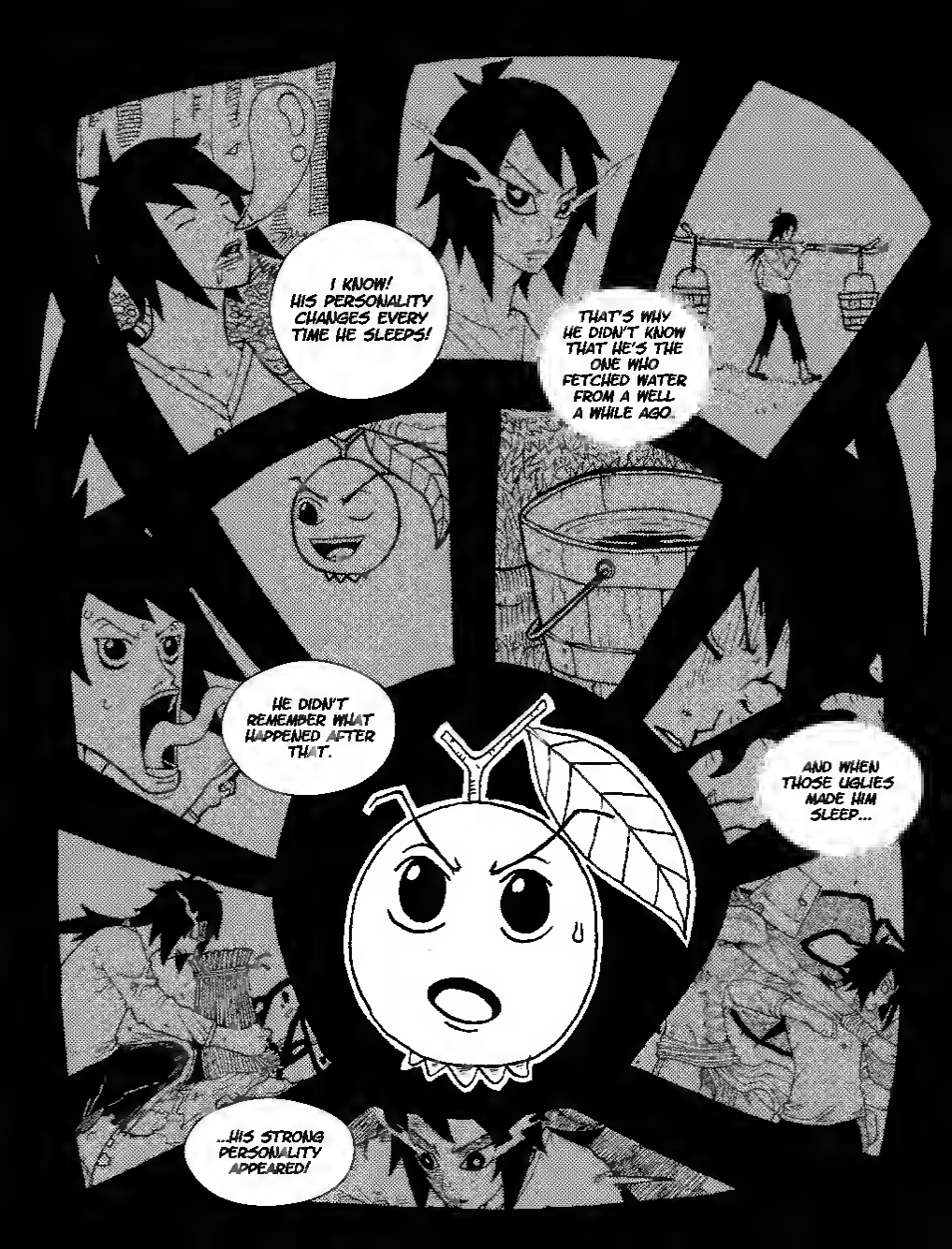
SORRY, BUT YOU GUYS ARE GOING WAY TOO FAR.

WHAT?!
YOU'RE ACTUALLY AWAKE...
WAIT... YOU!?
LEAVE THIS PLACE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT.
WOW...

ARROGANT BRAT!!
SHO
M
!!
SHOOK
STAY HERE FOR A WHILE, MY GUAVA FRIEND

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, KID? DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU'RE SCA-
SWOOSHH!!!
KRAB!!

THAT'S FOR WHAT YOU DID TO ME A WHILE AGO...
WE REALLY WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BELITTLE YOU. YOU ACTUALLY POSSESS POWER. PREPARE YOURSELF BECAUSE WE RE GONNA BE SERIOUS.
I'LL MAKE YOU EAT DIRT.
AMAZING! HE SEEMS TO BE DIFFERENT FROM A WHILE AGO. IT'S LIKE HE'S A DIFFERENT PERSON HUH?


I KNOW! HIS PERSONALITY CHANGES EVERY TIME HE SLEEPS!
THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE'S THE ONE WHO FETCHED WATER FROM A WELL A WHILE AGO.
HE DIDN'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.
AND WHEN THOSE UGLIES MADE HIM SLEEP...
...HIS STRONG PERSONALITY APPEARED!

YOU CAN'T SCARE US, KID!
I'M WARNING YOU. DON'T EVER COME BACK HERE AFTER THIS...

SHHH
SHHH
BUGHAWI!!!
GWOOSH!!
TO BE CONTINUED...